

# First Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* for Namibia

Simon Woolley

**Première mention du Chevalier à pattes jaunes *Tringa flavipes* pour la Namibie.** Le 21 août 2011 un Chevalier à pattes jaunes *Tringa flavipes* a été photographié à Rundu, au nord de la Namibie. Ceci constitue la première donnée pour le pays. L'aire d'hivernage de cette espèce, qui niche de l'Alaska au Canada, s'étend du sud des États Unis jusqu'en Amérique du Sud. En Afrique, des occasionnels ont été notés en Afrique de l'Ouest, en Zambie et en Afrique australe.

**O**n the morning of 21 August 2011, I visited Rundu Sewage Works, Kavango Region, northern Namibia (17°53'22"S 19°48'02"E), along with my wife, Julia Casson, Rainer Summers from Rockjumper Birding Tours and 14 teenage members of the Winchester College (UK) Natural History Society. Among the various commoner birds present, a calling wader attracted my attention, and I saw a medium-sized, greyish *Tringa* with bright yellow legs and a squared-off white rump patch fly past. I initially considered Greater Yellowlegs *T. melanoleuca*, on account of the trisyllabic call, very similar to a Common Greenshank's *T. nebularia*. However, closer inspection of the bird, which was now feeding with a Wood Sandpiper *T. glareola*, and input from birding friends via SMS, enabled us to eliminate that possibility. Indeed, the generally slight build, the fine, straight and almost all-black bill, only slightly longer than the head, and the dark secondaries visible in flight, confirmed that this was a Lesser Yellowlegs *T. flavipes* (Figs. 1–2). We aged the bird as an adult based on the heavy wear to various major feather tracts and the smattering of dark feathers on the upperparts.

This is the first record for Namibia (Hockey *et al.* 2005; T. Hardaker *in litt.* 2011). Lesser Yellowlegs breeds from Alaska to south-central Canada and moves south from mid July to winter across the southern USA through Central and South America (van Gils & Wiersma 1996). It is a vagrant to sub-Saharan Africa, with records from Senegal, The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia and southern Africa (Urban *et al.* 1986, Borrow & Demey 2001, 2011, Hockey *et al.* 2005). There are just six previous records from the southern African subregion: one from Zimbabwe (Harare, December 1979), one from Botswana (Moremi Game Reserve, April 2009) and four from South Africa (Berg River estuary, Velddrif, Western Cape, August 1983, probably a juvenile, present for at least 16 months, and January 2000; Sappi wetlands, Stanger, KwaZulu-Natal, December 2008; and Woodbourne Pan, Knysna, Western Cape, November 2010) (Hockey *et al.* 2005; T. Hardaker *in litt.* 2011).

## Acknowledgements

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**Figures 1–2.** Lesser Yellowlegs / Chevalier à pattes jaunes *Tringa flavipes*, Rundu Sewage Works, Namibia, 21 August 2011 (Simon Woolley)

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# First breeding record of Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* for Tunisia

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**Première donnée de nidification de la Bergeronnette des ruisseaux *Motacilla cinerea* en Tunisie.** Un nid de la Bergeronnette des ruisseaux *Motacilla cinerea* a été trouvé le 18 mai 2012 au centre de vacances d'Aïn Soltane, Jendouba, Tunisie. Il s'agit de la première preuve de reproduction de l'espèce dans le pays.

In the Maghreb, Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* is known to breed in Morocco and Algeria (Isenmann & Moali 2000, Thévenot *et al.* 2003). In Tunisia, proof of breeding was lacking, although the observation of a pair uttering alarm-calls near a stream in the Kroumirie Mountains,

in the north-west, in April 2000, suggested the species had a nest there (Isenmann *et al.* 2005).

During 8–21 May 2012, while staying at the holiday centre of Aïn Soltane, Governorat of Jendouba, north-western Tunisia, at the edge of El Feija National Park, we regularly observed



**Figure 1.** Adult male Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*, Aïn Soltane, Tunisia, 16 May 2012 (Georges Oliosio)

Bergeronnette des ruisseaux *Motacilla cinerea* mâle, Aïn Soltane, Tunisie, 16 mai 2012 (Georges Oliosio)



**Figure 2.** Nest of Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*, Aïn Soltane, Tunisia, 18 May 2012 (Georges Oliosio)

Nid de Bergeronnette des ruisseaux *Motacilla cinerea*, Aïn Soltane, Tunisie, 18 mai 2012 (Georges Oliosio)